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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NASSAU 001635

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/21/2013

TAGS: PREL ECON EINV PINR PGOV CH JA BF

SUBJECT: BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS VISIT TO CHINA -- COURTESY OR CONFIDANTS?

Classified By: CHARGE ROBERT WITAJEWSKI FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY 1. (C) On August 20, the Charge, and Economic Officer met with Mrs. Patricia Rogers, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA BY GCOB OFFICIALS

12. (C) At a meeting with Mrs. Patricia Rogers, the Charge, inquired about the upcoming Bahamian high-level visit to China from August 22nd - 8

13. (C) Framing it as simply a "follow-up to an invitation", Mrs. Rogers attempted to minimize the significance of the official trip. But after

14. (C) Mrs. Rogers and Ambassador Leonard Archer both made a point of expressing gratitude towards the Chinese for their technical assistance "NO" AGENDA WHILE IN CHINA

15. (C) When asked by the Charge, as to what the Bahamian officials had arranged with their Chinese counterparts for the visit, Mrs. Rogers pau SMUGGLING CHINESE TO THE US VIA THE BAHAMAS

16. (C) The Charge, specifically questioned the Bahamian government officials about whether the issue of smuggling Chinese aliens into the Unit CLOSING HONG KONG; OPENING IN BEIJING

17. (C) During the conversation, Mrs. Rogers did reveal that The Bahamas would discuss with Chinese officials the possibility of "deactivating"

18. (U) Currently, the Bahamian Consulate in Hong Kong does not process visas for CARICOM members, only for Bahamian citizens. Only the embassi NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO BAHAMAS

19. (C) Dr. Rogers mentioned that the new Chinese Ambassador to The Bahamas, Dongcon Jiao, will be formally presenting his credentials on Augus COMMENT

10. (C) Mrs. Rogers, and other Bahamian officials, are reluctant to discuss the details of their relationship with the Chinese. While it appears WITAJEWSKI